



“Are trying to instill both theological truths and ethical ideals into their readers...What ethical ideals are these authors implying in their narratives to which they hope their readers will aspire?”

—Gordon Wenham

“The children struggled together within Rebekah...” —Genesis 24:22

“The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau’s heel, so his name was called Jacob.” —Genesis 25:26

“And Esau lifted up his voice and wept...Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, ‘The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother.’” —Genesis 27:38,41

“Behold, your brother Esau comforts himself about you by planning to kill you. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban my brother in Haran.” —Genesis 27:42-43

“That Jacob is motivated by sincere remorse not just fear is shown by the term he uses to describe his gifts to Esau, “Accept, I pray my

blessing that is brought to you.” The use of the word ‘blessing’ is especially significant. His father Isaac had condemned Jacob with the words ‘Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing’ (Gen. 27:35). But in chapter 33 Jacob confesses his guilt by using this key word and tries to make amends.” —Gordon Wenham

“We live in a time when emotional offense, or woundedness, often becomes a criterion for deciding if love has been shown. If a person can claim to have been hurt by what you say, it is assumed by many that you did not act in love. In other words, love is not defined by the quality of the act and its motives, but by the subjective response of others. In this way of relating, the wounded one has absolute authority. If he says you hurt him, then you cannot have acted lovingly. You are guilty. Jesus will not allow this way of relating to go unchallenged.” —John Piper

“I have seen so much emotional blackmail in my ministry I am jealous to raise a warning against it. Emotional blackmail says, ‘If I feel hurt by you, you are guilty.’ There is no defense. The hurt person has become God. His emotion has become judge and jury. Truth does not matter. All that matters is the sovereign suffering of the aggrieved. It is above question. This emotional device is a great evil. I have seen it often in my three decades of ministry and I am eager to defend people who are being wrongly indicted by it.” —John Piper

“Do not give fair names to foul sins; call them what you will, they will smell no sweeter. What God sees them to be is what you must work at feeling them to be; and with all openness of heart acknowledge their real character.” —Charles Spurgeon

“Be kind to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” —Ephesians 4:32

“If we confess our sin, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” —1 John 1:9